

THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENTS.

THIS IS ABOUT THE FERRIES

A Plain Statement of the Conditions Existing There.

ARE WORKING DILIGENTLY

The reasons the Lessees Give for not Running on Schedule Time—Plans for a New Ferry House in Norfolk Prepared—To be Followed by the Same Thing in Portsmouth as Soon as Additional Land is Acquired.

So much has been said recently concerning the Norfolk County Ferries, its schedule and what not, that the Virginian-Pilot determined to investigate the matter on its own account and present to its many readers who largely patronize the ferries the true condition of affairs, and not rely upon street gossip, as seems to have been so largely done by many.

In accordance with this resolution the Virginian-Pilot man secured permission to make a full inspection of everything in the shape of ferry property.

THE BOATS INSPECTED.

We first went aboard the "Norfolk County" and inspected the finest ferry steamer ever seen here, and superior to the majority of boats in the larger cities. This boat is a credit to our ferries and the public should be proud of her. The great saloon cabins are finished in white and gold, hard wood seats and handsome electric fixtures. The cabins are finely heated, lighted and ventilated. A man is employed with no other duty than to keep the cabins clean, and the cleanliness is all that can be asked or expected in a boat handling thousands upon thousands of people daily, many of whom will spit on the freshly painted floors, despite the pointed requests of the Board of Health and the Lessees not to do so. Then, too, the decks are well lighted and cleaned, hence we found no ground for complaint about this boat, on the contrary much to commend.

The "Twin City," plying between Norfolk and Berkeley, was also found to be in clearly condition, as was also the naptha launch plying between Portsmouth and Berkeley.

Having seen all the boats running, we turned our attention to the boats not in a condition to run, with the following results:

The "City of Portsmouth" (the main stay of the line for years) is undergoing most extensive repairs, which we found necessary from the fact that the boat had been running for eleven years and had never had any general repairs, or her machinery taken apart and examined. This work, as is generally known to the traveling public, is an absolute necessity, as the boat was run until the United States Supervising Inspector of Steam Vessels ordered that she be at once taken off the line. The work required on this steamer is both tedious and expensive, as her boilers, machinery, and in fact the whole boat must have a general overhauling, while the large bed plate called the channel way, which supports the engine and machinery, is cracked to such an extent that it was crushed by the great weight upon it, and would have dropped to pieces had it not been for the liberal patching done to it, which has also worn out. This boat will get back on the line between the 15th and 20th of November, thoroughly rejuvenated.

The "Elizabeth" has been put in condition to have her old condemned boiler thoroughly rebuilt, after which she will be fitted out for service, when she will be in as good condition as she was twenty years ago.

The old "City of Norfolk" no doubt did good service during her nearly half century of life, but has been found too old and decrepit for further service as a ferry boat, as inspection shows she is only fit for the junk pile, from which her engine, (said to be the oldest in service in the United States) can be put in the crucible and the good metal used for other purposes. This vessel is a dead expense to the lessees, as they have to keep up steam constantly and men abroad night and day to pump the water out so that she will not sink in the slip.

ANOTHER NEW BOAT COMING

Having viewed all the boats, the scribe asked the lessee with whom he was in company, to tell him about the additional boat that had been mentioned frequently of late, and was advised that the superintendent, with an expert, was now at the North examining the condition of a boat fully as large or larger than the City of Portsmouth, and if this examination proved satisfactory the boat would be purchased and put on the line in a short time. The lessee also said: "When we took charge of this property we did not expect to find it all new, but we did expect it to be in good running order and condition, and that the boats would be fit and able to make the schedule. And we had a right to expect this, as it was required by the lease than in force, and we naturally supposed the city and county would see to it that this obligation was complied with. We were denied the privilege of having any inspection made, even during the month intervening between the time we leased the ferry and the time we took charge, and it must also be remembered that the city and county are not ready to begin our trial until some time after we took charge. Instead of finding the property in a condition to suppose, what was the condition? The City of Portsmouth had been in bad shape for years and could only use her for a few days, when she was ordered off the Government authorities, and now spent thousands of dollars on her in repairing and rebuilding, which should have been done years ago."

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with the progress we have made. Although not required by the lease, or expected by the ferry committee to get a new boat under a year, we had the launch built by the city, and will have the City of Portsmouth thoroughly rehabilitated and on the line before December, which will put every thing back in regular order and do away with the launch (with the exception of the launch on the same route many times before) and if our plans carry right we will have two boats on between Norfolk and Portsmouth, as we hope to have another boat by November 15th, and by January 1st we will have the Elizabeth again on the line in the best possible condition. Thus in nine months we will have provided two additional steamers and renewed two of the former ones, thereby furnishing all odds the best and most complete line of ferry steamers ever seen here. What has not already been accomplished is under way, and can almost be considered accomplished facts. Not satisfied with this we have had prepared plans for a ferry house in Norfolk which will entirely separate the oncoming from the outgoing passengers and vehicles, passengers or those for the Portsmouth side prepared so as soon as we know what land we will get for ferry purposes from the city and county.

SCHEDULE TALKED OF

We asked the lessee that these things should prove more than satisfactory, and at the same time inquired as to the difficulty in running on schedule time now, to which he replied: "The difficulty is in the fact that the lessee will mention these nearly every man expects the ferry to be run by his watch whether it be an Ingersoll dollar watch, a Waterbury, or a Geneva movement, neither the passengers or team drivers seem in any hurry to get off, and unnecessarily consume much valuable time in this way. Why, I have frequently seen people meet friends daily giving evidence to those who wish to see that we intend to give the best possible service, and by far better accommodations and service than has ever been given before. This, however, will take a little time, as we cannot work miracles, but we are mending things as fast as men and liberal expenditures can do."

"THE LITTLE HUSSAR."

The New Opera House has been secured for the presentation of this most captivating and brilliant of all modern operas yet undertaken by our talented young amateurs. The cast comprises many of our old favorites, with new stars, who will shed a brilliancy on this production not before attempted, as the second act is burlesque on grand opera, thus making an opera within an opera, so that there are really two operas given the same evening. The plot is most amusing, and the music brilliant and catchy. The object is one which appeals to all who have the welfare of the city at large at heart—our City Hospital.

COUNTY COURT BUSINESS.

In this court yesterday Henry Williams, alias "Singer" Williams, colored, was arraigned on the charge of house-breaking. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the county jail for a period of 12 months and a fine of 1 cent imposed.

ASSOCIATION NEWS.

The formal opening of the Y. M. C. A. night school will take place next Thursday night, November 2d. Much interest is being manifested. Young men of many trades and other lines of work are entering the classes. The course of study includes classes in ship-drawing, mechanical drawing, stenography, book-keeping, commercial law, commercial arithmetic, grammar and correspondence, and vocal music.

TO SUIT THE TIMES.

The present spell of warm weather has made business in all branches very quiet. The expenses have not reduced in the least. On this account the merchants, whose names appear in the columns of this paper, have all offered special inducements to buyers this week in order to raise money. Glance over the list, and you will find something that you stand in need of, and can secure at prices that are seldom offered. Among the names are the permanent business men of this city.

EVENTS TO-MORROW.

Grimes' Battery, Virginia Volunteers, Board of Health, Council Chamber, Portsmouth Lodge, No. 16, K. of P., 12 o'clock. Christian Union Charity, Tidewater Lodge, No. 66, L. O. of P., Portsmouth Lodge, No. 82, L. O. of P., 8 o'clock.

We keep every shape of collars. Let us sell you your collars. Chas. R. Weston & Co.

ITEMS GATHERED HERE AND THERE

Miscellaneous Happenings Condensed For Virginian-Pilot Readers.

MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE

What is Going On in and Around Portsmouth and Suburban Communities Gathered, Sifted and Told in Few Words—The Past, the Present and the Future Revealed, Related and Foreshadowed.

The National Trust Company, of Washington, D. C., has purchased the lands known as the "Ivory estate," in West Portsmouth, and also a controlling interest in the companies owning Piedmont Heights and Lincoln Park, embracing a total tract of about eighty acres, in the locality.

The Democratic Executive Committee of Norfolk county met yesterday at Brown's hotel to talk over the political situation of the county. Election laws, constitutional amendments, and oyster laws were discussed, but no action was taken in reference to them. The thermometer went well up yesterday.

A large number of gunners went out after partridges yesterday.

Henry Commander, the negro who stole copper out the yard on Friday, was yesterday given three months in jail.

Alonzo Halstead was bound over to the peace by Mayor Baird yesterday for the term of six months.

Read R. S. Brooks' advertisement and you will learn something to your interest.

Constable Wm. Huybert had a tape-worm from him yesterday that measured 74 feet.

Quite a number of people will go to Richmond Monday and Tuesday to witness the launching of the torpedo boat Shubrick.

Mr. Meirman, who lives in Cottage place, saw a man getting through one of his windows Friday night. He had three shots at him, but the man made his escape.

Yesterday morning a colored man was riding a bicycle down High street trying to catch the 5:30 boat. In his hurry he fell and got caught in the railroad track, throwing him off and cutting his head quite badly.

A little child, while playing on a pile of lumber on Effingham street yesterday, was badly bruised by the lumber rolling over on her.

The condition of Mr. George King is critical. His friends have but little hope of his recovery.

There was plenty dressed poultry in the market yesterday. The hucksters disposed of it as soon as they could, on account of the warm weather.

There will be several parties on Halloween night, which will be next Tuesday.

The Virginia Methodist Conference will convene in Petersburg on November 15th. The preachers have but three Sundays left to raise their collections in.

A little negro boy attempted to snatch a pocket-book from a lady's hand as she entered an up-town grocery store yesterday morning. He failed to get it, but not through any fault of his own.

The smell of pine bush burning in the swamp nights is terrible. The whole city is filled with smoke. Unless we have rain soon to put the fire out it will get worse.

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Fourth Street Baptist Church will meet to-morrow afternoon at the residence of Mrs. Phillips, No. 423 Harrison street.

Mr. John C. Niemeyer will on Saturday next sell, at public auction, house and lot No. 713 Glasgow street for the purpose of closing up an estate. See advertisement.

The local assembly of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew in the three cities of Portsmouth, Berkeley and Norfolk, held their annual convention at the Thomas Church, Berkeley, this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock.

Andrew Williams, one of the colored men charged with the robbery of a colored man named Copeland on King street extended some weeks ago, was bailed by Judge Portlock in the County Court yesterday in the sum of \$300.

The funeral of Jennie Loraine, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Lumber, who died at her parents' home, on Elm avenue, Prentiss place, at 9:30 o'clock Friday night, was held at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon from the residence.

Mrs. Mary E. Neville and daughter, of Third street, will leave Portsmouth about the first of November for Houston, Texas, where Mrs. Neville will make her home with her sons, who are engaged in the cotton business in that city.

The funeral of an infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius L. Hancock, of Southern avenue, Pinner's Point, took place yesterday afternoon from the residence, Rev. J. Franklin Carey officiating. The interment was in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Rev. Thomas P. Baker, of Cheraw, S. C., will preach at St. John's Church this morning at 11 o'clock.

Mr. G. W. Cherry and family, former residents of this city, but recently of Florence, S. C., have returned to Portsmouth to live.

The attention of Norfolk county taxpayers is called to the notice of Mr. S. S. Adams, treasurer of the county, in this issue.

This morning while the big guns of the Texas were belching forth their salutes in honor of the new admiral in old derby, who is employed in the wharves' yards, was heard to remark: "Jeb look at dat Spanish ship de Reza Mercedes, she am sho getting up steam to run through Berkeley, as she thinks de Texas am gwine to gib her some of de medicine dat she gib her down at Santiago last night."

Mrs. Ella Stewart, of Washington, D. C., widow of the late Charles Stewart, of that city, is here visiting Mrs. C. A. Johnson, of 76 Clifford street.

Miss Annie Day Smith, of Pullard, is in the city visiting Mr. G. Orenshaw's family, in Park View.

Police Officer Shannon is confined to his home from an attack of vertigo.

Doctor and Mrs. R. F. Young, of West county, are visiting Miss Agnes Clay, at 115 North street, Park View.

Mr. Goodman gives notice that he is selling out his entire stock, consisting of furniture, Christmas presents, dry goods, furnishings, goods, etc., at reduced prices to move.

HOUSE AND LOT AT AUCTION.

For the purpose of settling the estate of the late Solomon Bailey, I will sell at public auction, before the Court-house in the City of Portsmouth, Va., at 12 o'clock m., SATURDAY, November 4, 1899, the house and lot No. 713 Glasgow street, Portsmouth, lot 78x112.

TERMS—CASH. JOHN C. NIEMEYER, oc29-1ds

SELLING OUT ENTIRE STOCK

Striking values until Xmas. Everything must be sold regardless of manufacturers' cost, including holiday gifts, \$2.50 to 50c off. Must vacate January 1st. Furniture, Carpets, Mattings, Oil Cloth, Cook Stoves, Steel Ranges, Electric Dry Goods, Cottons, Clothing, Overcoats, Boots, Shoes, Ladies' and Gent's Furnishing Goods. Golden opportunities during this great sale in all departments.

GOODMAN'S

HIGH AND WASHINGTON STS. oc29-1m

Bargains

—IN—

REAL ESTATE

Call on or write

R. S. BROOKS,

Real Estate, Rents and Loans.

323 HIGH STREET. \$20,000 TO LEND ON EASY TERMS.

The New Shoe Store

Are Showing All The

UP-TO-DATE SHOES

Nicest stock in the city. Take a look at them.

Taliaferro & Long,

600 Crawford St., Cor King.

(Old Market Square.) Portsmouth, Va.

FREE TO LITTLE GIRLS

The little girls spelling the greatest number of words from the name

"Wm. B. Daughtrey,"

(Proper names excepted)

will receive the set of Furs now on exhibition in the show window at No. 318 High Street. This contest will close NOVEMBER 15, 1899.

Wm. B. Daughtrey & Co.

HATS, CAPS, UMBRELLAS, GLOVES

AND CHILDREN'S FURS.

oc29-1w

HOTEL FOR SALE.

Mr. Charles H. Brown, proprietor of the well known and strictly first-class Hotel known as Brown's Hotel, corner of High and Water streets, Portsmouth, offers for sale his lease, stock, fixtures, license, furniture and everything contained in the building and necessary to the business. The hotel is doing a thriving business. Mr. Brown's reasons for selling being that he is desirous of engaging in another line of business. Parties interested will do well to call upon Mr. Brown at the Hotel, oc29-5t

Pure Mountain Buckwheat.

The old fashioned kind, makes cakes almost as black as your hat.

Phone New Orleans Molasses and Maple Syrup.

Self-rising Buckwheat also. Try my fine Teas and Coffees.

E. R. BARKSDALE

BOTH PHONES. 129 COURT ST.

H. B. WILKINS SAYS

when you want DRY WOOD and CLEAN COAL call to see him, as he has the following: Dry Pine, Dry Oak and Dry Slab. Also have a SOFT LUMP COAL. Call and see before purchasing.

Phone 218. 1213 WASHINGTON ST.

FOR RENT.

Desirable Brick Dwelling No. 401 Dinwiddie street 8 rooms, gas, bath, range, sewerage and other conveniences. Rent \$25 per month.

JNO. L. WATSON.

209 11th street, Portsmouth, Va.

Oysters for the People

I have just added to my Lunch Room a raw bar, where the choicest oysters can be had in any style.

H. O. PEARSON,

FERRY DAIRY LUNCH ROOM.

NOTICE.

I close at 7 p. m. sharp, Saturdays excepted.

R. E. KING,

230 COURT STREET.

TELL IT TO YOUR FRIENDS

There is one place in the city where you can get anything that is kept in a warehouse. Drugs, Chemicals, Stationery, Patent and Proprietary Medicines, Cigars, Snuff, Cane and Toilet Articles, and all the goods of S. W. WEATHERS' PHARMACY, corner of Green and Queen streets, Old Phone 275. Portsmouth, Va. oc29-1m

FOR HIRE HORSES AND VEHICLES

Holes of all kinds, Kentucky driving and saddle horses; new top buggies, rubber tires or bicycle wheels; Sheldahl Pongies, Carts and Harness for ladies and children. They are beautiful. Special attention paid to boarding and transient trade. Come and see the Clover old stand, King street, Old Phone 232; new phone 150.

P. C. CODD

For Sale—Sheldahl, Penn. Carriage and Harness; weight 250 pounds; height 25 in.

A CARD!

Don't let your property go to pieces when, by sending a postal to me, you can have the same repaired at small cost if taken in time.

C. A. ROANE, Carpenter,

43 Fayette Street.

MISS M. AGNES CLAY.

(NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY)

will on September 5th reopen her Music studio, 115 North street, Park View.

Piano lessons \$2.00

Waltz lessons \$1.00

Harmony, Advanced Theory and Musical History, each \$1.50

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